

**Floor Statement
Congressman John Lewis
Goodman, Chaney, Schwerner Anniversary
Mississippi Freedom Summer
June 21, 2004**

Forty years ago today, three courageous young Americans--Andy Goodman, James Chaney and Mikey Schwerner-- paid the ultimate price for trying to secure voting rights for all of our citizens. These three young men, simply because they were black and white working together to expand democracy were arrested by the sheriff and his deputy, later that same evening they were taken to jail and turned over to the Klan where they were beaten shot and killed.

It is unbelievable, it is unreal, but it did happen. Not in Europe, not in Africa, not in Vietnam, not in the Middle East, but right here in our own country, in the heart of the South, in the state of Mississippi.

As a nation and as a people we must never, ever forget the sacrifice they made. Their blood helped to cultivate and grow the seeds of our democracy.

James Chaney, Mickey Schwerner, and Andy Goodman helped sweep down one of the mighty walls of resistance to equal justice in America. We must never, ever forget their sacrifice for our freedom.